

## Legislative Changes That May Impact Your Spending Account



Due to the growing need for change in response to COVID-19, government officials continue to consider options to help provide relief for Americans. Lifetime Benefit Solutions (LBS) is actively monitoring the environment for any changes, and we will continue to share regular updates with our members. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law recently which included a change that expands the list of eligible expenses for certain spending accounts.

### Specific Eligible Expense Changes

This new bill allows you to use certain spending account funds to purchase **more items** with **less restrictions**.

**Menstrual products are now allowed as eligible expenses** for qualifying spending accounts. This includes products such as:

- Tampons
- Pads
- Liners
- Cups
- Sponges
- Other similar products used by individuals with respect to menstruation

Additionally, **prescriptions will no longer be required for over-the-counter (OTC) drugs**, including items like Tylenol, Claritin, Tamiflu, etc. when purchased with funds from certain spending accounts.

These changes are being made with a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2020. This means that you can submit claims for menstrual products or OTC drugs dating back to January 1, 2020.

**Please note:** These changes do not apply to items that previously required a certificate of medical necessity (CMN) such as vitamins and supplements. These items will still need a CMN in order to be considered an eligible expense.

### Which Spending Accounts Does This Impact?

This section of the CARES Act applies to:

- **All** health savings accounts (HSAs)
- **All** medical flexible spending accounts (FSAs)
- **Some** health reimbursement accounts (HRAs)

Only HRAs that previously allowed the purchase of items covered under Section 105 of the IRS would be allowed to purchase these newly covered products with their accounts. Some HRAs, such as deductible and/or coinsurance HRAs, only allow certain services to be covered, so these accounts **cannot** be used toward these additional items. You will need to check the specific coverage for your account to see if this change applies.

## Tips on Reimbursement for Newly Covered Items

We are actively working with our debit card vendor to have these new items automatically verified when using your LBS Health Spending Card. However, it is expected that you will not be able to use your health spending card on these new items until **at least April 15**.

In the meantime, **the best way to ensure you are accurately reimbursed** for these purchases is to pay for them out-of-pocket initially, and then file a claim for reimbursement with your receipt through the LBS member portal or the LBS Health Spending App.

### We're Here to Help

If you are unable to determine if your HRA is eligible, or if you have any other questions about these changes, please contact our Customer Service Department and we would be happy to assist you:



(800) 327-7130

*Monday – Thursday*  
8:00am – 5:00pm EST

*Friday*  
9:00am – 5:00pm EST



LBS.CustomerService  
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For the latest COVID-19 information, please visit our COVID-19 resource website for easy access to updates, common questions about coverage, helpful tips, and resources. The COVID-19 situation is rapidly changing, and this website is updated regularly with new information for our members.



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